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MODERNIZING THE MONROE DOCTRINE. By Charles H. Sherrill. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1916.

That the Monroe Doctrine is a policy by no means free from doubts and difficulties is pretty generally agreed. The doctrine is notoriously hard to define; it has meant different things at different times; it is regarded with qualified respect in Europe and with marked suspicion in South America. As it is sometimes made to appear, this time-honored policy of ours is to Europe little more than foolishness and to Latin America a formidable stumbling block. From time to time we have "modernized" the Monroe Doctrine, more or less: the view is now being pressed with considerable urgency that we ought to modernize it altogether.

"Modernizing the Monroe Doctrine" would mean, in the view of Mr. Charles H. Sherrill, substituting for it the doctrine of Pan-Americanism. In what is written about this latter policy—and rather especially in what Mr. Sherrill writes about it—there are certain obvious elements of truth. Pan-Americanism Mr. Sherrill defines as "an attempt to assemble the finest traits of twenty-one republics so as to employ them in combination for the common good of all, meanwhile disregarding their shortcomings." It is a mixture of appreciation and toleration, a combination of altruism and enlightened self-interest. In its general features the policy is attractive; as a mental attitude it is commendable. Readers of Mr. Sherrill's chapters upon South American culture and South American markets will almost certainly be interested and impressed. Nor will most readers be inclined to quarrel seriously with the author's opinion that the "A. B. C." mediation was a success in the sense that it established a "High Court of Public Opinion for the Western Hemisphere."

It seems clear that what is said in favor of Pan-Americanism is perfectly true up to a certain point. One may even agree with Mr. Sherrill that while "some policies are only beneficial when completely worked out. Pan-Americanism even when incomplete is beneficial." An incomplete Pan-Americanism, however, would seem to include much that might be safely accepted without adopting the Pan-American label or explicitly renouncing the Monroe Doctrine. A completely worked out Pan-Americanism implies, of course, a definite foreign policy; and it is at just the point where a definite line of action in foreign relationships begins to be called for that the new doctrine becomes a little hard to follow. There are varying versions of Pan-Americanism as a foreign policy. Mr. Sherrill's version has at least the merits of clearness and courage.

The author's program includes two sets of recommendations, none too closely connected. The first set has special reference to the building up of American foreign trade. Laws should be enacted, Mr. Sherrill urges, modifying the Interstate Commerce Act so as to permit railroads to grant preferential rates on goods to the seaboard intended for export, and so amending the Sherman Act that it shall be lawful to make combinations for trade outside our borders. The nation, moreover, should take immediate steps to free itself from the meshes of those treaties which are "strangling" the merchant marine. The second set of suggestions looks toward the establishment of permanent peace in the two Americas. Taking advantage of the present financial dependence of European countries upon the United States, we are to ask these countries "to release to the sovereignty of the peoples themselves all colonial territory owned by them in the Western Hemisphere." Canada, it is explained, "can have her independence whenever she likes," and hence her status as part of the British Empire need not greatly concern us. Other American territories belonging to European nations are to be bought or begged. Then by means of financial pressure and by persuasion partly moral and partly pecuniary, America is to be safeguarded from friction with Europe. The released territories may be apportioned in such a way as would best serve to strengthen Latin America. The gift of the three Guianas might, in Mr. Sherrill's opinion, be made to further "the statesmanlike project of Bolivar . . . a splendid confederation of the Guianas with Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador." Peace with Asia is to be assured by the complete detachment of the United States from every supposed Asiatic interest. The "open door" policy is to be frankly abandoned, and the Philippines are to be given up. Thus Mr. Sherrill's "triangle of peace" is completed.

In this book there is real knowledge, idealism, vigorous, suggestive thought. As a discussion of the foreign policy of the United States, the treatise, however, is too slight to be convincing. On the whole, the author fails to give such a definition of Pan-Americanism as will satisfy skeptics that this policy is necessary, safe and practicable.

THE END OF A CHAPTER. By Shane Leslie. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1916.

Few books of seemingly desultory reminiscence and comment equal this of Mr. Shane Leslie's in a certain vitality of thought and pungency of expression. Apparently aiming at brilliancy and certainly attaining it, the author has packed his book with anecdotes really meaningful and choice in flavor, with shrewd criticisms, and with sayings arrestingly epigrammatic; and he has fastidiously omit-